

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 15, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 remain in the application, with Claims 3, 7, 9, 12 and 14 having been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14 were objected to for informalities. The claims have been amended giving due consideration to the points noted in the Office Action. All of the objections are believed to be obviated by one of the cancellation of the objected to claim or an amendment to the claim. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claim 8 has nonetheless been amended to recite a computer medium on which is stored a computer program, which is clearly statutory subject matter. Additionally, Claim 8 has been written into independent form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 to 5 and 10 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Each of the points noted in the Office Action have been attended to either by amendment to the claims or cancellation of the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,643,652 (Helgeson). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns performing the same processing on an object by a plurality of computers that share a virtual space. According to the invention, an information processing apparatus acquires a unique ID that uniquely identifies the information processing apparatus from a management apparatus. The information processing apparatus then generates identification information of an object processed by the information processing apparatus, and transmits the identification information to the management apparatus. The management apparatus can then provide the object to other apparatuses so they can perform the same object processing on the object. As a result, each object generated in each one of a plurality of information processing apparatuses will have a unique identification information so that arbitration of object IDs between devices can be obviated.

With specific reference to the claims, Claim 13 is directed to an information processing system. The system comprises a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected through a network to share a virtual space, and a management information processing apparatus. Each of the information processing apparatuses comprises an acquisition unit that acquires unique information from the management information processing apparatus connected through the network, wherein the unique information uniquely identifies the information processing apparatuses on the network, an object generation unit that generates an object in the virtual space, an identification information generation unit that generates identification information of an object based on the unique information, wherein the object is identified by the identification information in the information processing apparatus, and a transmitting unit that transmits the identification information to the management information processing apparatus through the

network. The management information processing apparatus manages the plurality of information processing apparatuses, and comprises a unique information determination unit that determines unique information for each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses, a sending unit that sends each of the unique information determined by the determination unit for each of the information processing apparatus to the corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses, and a receiving unit that receives the object information about the object output from each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses, wherein the object information includes the identification information.

Claim 1 is a method claim directed to the information processing apparatus side, while Claim 5 is a method claim directed to the management information processing apparatus side. Claims 10 and 11 are apparatus claims that substantially correspond to Claims 1 and 5, respectively, and Claim 8 is a computer medium claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

The applied art of Helgeson is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 13, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of an information processing apparatus which generates an object in a virtual space acquiring unique information from another information processing apparatus/management information processing apparatus connected through the network, wherein the unique information uniquely identifies the information processing apparatuses on the network, generating identification information of the object based on the unique information, wherein the object is identified by the identification information in the information processing apparatus, and a transmitting the identification information to the other/management information processing apparatus through the network (Claims 1, 8, 10

and 13), or a management information processing apparatus that manages a plurality of information processing apparatus which share a virtual space, determining unique information for each a unique information, wherein the unique information is different from each other, sending the determined unique information for each of the information processing apparatus to the corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses, and receiving object information about an object output from one of the information processing apparatuses, wherein the object information includes identification information which is generated, based on the sent unique information, by the information processing apparatus from which the object is output (Claims 5, 11 and 13).

Helgeson is merely seen to disclose a system for exchanging data over the Internet between platforms with different hardware. According to the patent, a predefined stylesheets are used to translate an object received from a first system that uses a first system specific local format to a generic interchange format. The generic interchange format of the object is then translated into a second system specific local format, again using the predefined stylesheets. The translated data object is then transferred to the second system. Thus, while Helgeson may translate objects and transfer them between different systems, Helgeson is not seen to determine unique information for identifying each information processing apparatus on the network, or generate unique identification information of the object using the determined unique ID information. Specifically, Helgeson is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of an information processing apparatus which generates an object in a virtual space acquiring unique information from another information processing apparatus/management information processing apparatus connected through the network, wherein the unique information

uniquely identifies the information processing apparatuses on the network, generating identification information of the object based on the unique information, wherein the object is identified by the identification information in the information processing apparatus, and a transmitting the identification information to the other/management information processing apparatus through the network (Claims 1, 8, 10 and 13), or a management information processing apparatus that manages a plurality of information processing apparatus which share a virtual space, determining unique information for each a unique information, wherein the unique information is different from each other, sending the determined unique information for each of the information processing apparatus to the corresponding one of the information processing apparatuses, and receiving object information about an object output from one of the information processing apparatuses, wherein the object information includes identification information which is generated, based on the sent unique information, by the information processing apparatus from which the object is output (Claims 5, 11 and 13).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 13, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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